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Cassis parental involvement bill sent to governor

LANSING – Legislation calling on schools to encourage more parental involvement is headed for the governor’s desk, announced Sen. Nancy Cassis, sponsor of the bill.

“Encouraging parents to be involved in their children’s education helps our children, our schools and our communities,” said Cassis, R-Nov. “As a former school psychologist, I can attest to the critical role parents play in their children’s education.”

Senate Bill 307 requires a school board, or the board of directors of a public school academy, to adopt and implement an involvement plan designed to encourage parental participation by the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year. It also requires the Michigan Department of Education to post successful plans on their Web site.

Over the course of several months, graduate students from Wayne State University presented research to the Senate Education Committee on the relationship between parental involvement and academic achievement and classroom and interpersonal behavior. Cassis worked with Dr. Cheryl Somers, a member of the Michigan Association of School Psychologists and professor at WSU, in coordinating the research with the presenters from WSU.

“Dr. Somers and her students were an invaluable resource for information on the value of parental involvement in schools,” Cassis said. “Their research into the benefits to children of parental involvement in their education was outstanding, and I am grateful for their help.”

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